

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ **CONFIDENTIAL**
 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Hungary
 SUBJECT Sociological - Census results
 HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical
 WHERE PUBLISHED Budapest
 DATE PUBLISHED Jun 1951
 LANGUAGE Hungarian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

DATE DIST. 3) Oct 1951

NO. OF PAGES 5

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Tarsadalmi Szemle, Vol VI, No 6, 1951.

CHANGING SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF HUNGARY'S POPULATION,
AS SHOWN BY 1930, 1949 CENSUS RESULTS

Jeno Redei

The object of the Hungarian bourgeois statisticians was to present a confused picture of the country's social stratification. The population was grouped mostly according to occupations in the census, and this method made social classification impossible. The 1930 census, for example, shows 216,516 "self-employed industrialists," including small artisans working without help and small, middle and large industrial employers. The occupational distribution of the population on the basis of taxation was even cruder.

The 1949 census gave a true picture of the social composition of Hungary's population for the first time. The method used in 1949 was subsequently applied by the Statistical Office to the 1930 census data. As a result of this analytical work, the following comparative table has been compiled:

Social Distribution of the Population

Main Groups	Social Classes	Percent of Population	
		1930	1949
A. Wage Earners	Workers	23.5	27.7
	Employees	5.7	6.9
	Agricultural workers	19.3	6.5
	Farmers owning less than one cadastral yoke of land	4.0	1.8
	Domestics	2.3	1.1
	Pensioners	3.5	4.7
	Total Group A	58.3	48.7

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**CONFIDENTIAL**

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION									
ARMY	X	X	X									
	X	X	X									

7

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Main Groups	Social Classes	Percent of Population	
		1930	1949
B. Small Producers	Farmers owning 1-5 cadastral yokes	12.3	11.5
	Artisans with no employees	4.1	4.8
	Farmers owning 5-10 cadastral yokes	6.9	13.3
	Farmers owning 10-25 cadastral yokes	5.4	13.7
	Total Group B	28.7	43.3
C. Capitalists, Kulaks, and Other Nonworkers	Kulaks and landowners	3.5	2.0
	Animal breeders	0.2	0.1
	Artisans with 1-3 employees	2.2	1.1
	Middle and large artisans	0.6	0.3
	Businessmen	2.6	2.3
	Independent carriers	0.4	0.3
	Capitalists	0.6	0.2
	Miscellaneous occupations	0.8	0.6
	Total Group C	10.9	6.9
D. Other	Independent artists, writers, and physicians	0.3	0.2
	Lawyers and notaries public	0.2	0.1
	Dependents	0.9	0.7
	Unknown and unclassified occupations	0.7	0.1
	Total Group D	2.1	1.1

The foregoing table shows that, between 1930 and 1949, the following three fundamental changes took place in the social structure of the populations:

1. The majority of peasants and agricultural workers rose into the small and middle farmer category.
2. The working class, especially in heavy industry, gained in importance.
3. The large landowners and capitalists were liquidated and the bourgeois class was reduced.

In analyzing these three changes, it should be remembered that, under the proletarian dictatorship, the more recent social stratification represents progress and has a different significance than under capitalism. It should not be overlooked that the character of state power has undergone a structural change, that is, the working class now has the power of liquidating hostile classes and social conflicts.

Changes in the Peasant Class

According to the census, the number of agricultural workers and peasants owning less than one cadastral yoke of land, together with dependents, totaled 2,023,000 in 1930. It is characteristic of the pauperization of the peasant class under capitalism that, while the number of agricultural laborers increased between 1930 and 1941, the number of small peasants owning less than one cadastral yoke of land diminished by nearly 50,000. In 1949, as a result of the land reform, the number of landless peasants was reduced to 764,000, or by almost two thirds. While this class accounted for 23.3 percent of the total population prior to the land reform, the ratio dropped to 8.3 percent in 1949.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Next to benefit from the land reform was the class of middle peasants. The number of farmers owning 1-5 cadastral yokes of land, together with their dependents, increased from 1,070,000 in 1930 to 1,376,000 in 1949, or from 12.6 percent to 14.9 percent of the total population. A much more considerable shift occurred in the next two categories of peasants, farmers owning 5-10 and 10-25 cadastral yokes of land, respectively. The number of farmers owning 5-10 cadastral yokes, together with their dependents, increased from 604,100 in 1930 to 1,421,000 in 1949, that is, from 6.9 to 15.4 percent of the total population. At the same time, the number of farmers in the 10-25 yoke category increased from 461,300 to 816,000, or from 5.3 to 8.9 percent of the total population.

To sum up, as a result of the land reform, the number of landless peasants was reduced by 1,260,000, or 28 percent of the total agricultural population, while the number of small and middle peasants increased by approximately the same number, or 26 percent of the total agricultural population. It may be noted that, due to the land reform, approximately 57 percent of all landowning peasants now fall into the 5-25 yoke category. If the 700,000 agricultural workers owning less than one cadastral yoke of land are subtracted from the total number of farmers, the ratio of peasants in the 5-25 yoke category increases to 62 percent. The above statistical picture, therefore, clearly indicates a trend, advocated by Lenin, toward the development of the middle peasant class. Due to the land reform, the number of small producers increased considerably, from 28.7 to 43.3 percent of the total population.

However, the land reform alone does not assure the independence of the peasant class. According to Gyorgy Pikler ("Rural Results of the Census" in Magyar Szovjet Kozgazdasagi Szemle, Vol IV, No 2, Feb-Mar 1951), "the average holdings of the beneficiaries of the land reform are 6-7 cadastral yokes. This average farm serves to support an average family of four persons. Therefore, only 1.7 cadastral yokes of land are available per person. This small area does not assure progress among the peasant class, but ties up a large amount of manpower which could be used to better advantage in other branches of the socialist economy."

Social changes among the population occurred in rapid succession after 1949 also. In agriculture, the producers' cooperatives have been created and now embrace 320,000 to 364,000 persons, or 10 percent of the peasants in the 1-25 yoke category.

Growing Importance of the Workers

The number of nonagricultural workers, together with dependents, increased from 2,038,000 in 1930 to 2,547,000 in 1949. This category included industrial workers, together with their dependents, numbering 1,273,900 in 1930 and 1,583,200 in 1949, representing 14.7 and 17.2 percent, respectively, of the total population.

Parallel with the increase in industrial population, the structure of industry also underwent certain changes, as indicated by the changes in the ratios of workers employed in the various branches of industry. The ratios of workers to the total industrial population increased between 1930 and 1949 as follows: in metallurgy and the iron, metal, and aluminum processing industries from 10.9 to 13.7 percent; in the production of machines and precision instruments from 10.3 to 14.6 percent; in electric power production from 0.9 to 1.5 percent; and in the chemical industry from 1.7 to 3.2 percent.

The number of textile workers also increased; on the other hand, there was a decrease in the number of workers in the clothing, woodworking, and printing industries. In sum, a clear trend toward large-scale industry has developed.

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

50X1-HUM

This trend is indicated by the following figures: on 1 January 1949, the date of the census, industrial workers, including artisans and workers in the building industry, represented 16.5 percent of all wage earners: this ratio was 16.1 percent in 1930, while today, it is estimated at 18.5 percent. Within the category of industrial workers, the number of workers in large-scale industries shows the greatest percentage increase. This fact is shown in the following table.

	<u>1 January</u>		
	<u>1930</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1951</u>
Ratio of workers in large-scale industries to total industrial workers	35.3	50.0	Approx 69
Ratio of workers in large-scale industries to total wage earners	5.7	8.3	Approx 14

According to the above table, the ratio of workers employed in large-scale industries to total industrial workers rose from 35.3 percent in 1939 to nearly double this figure by the end of 1950. Even more correct results are obtained by including among large-scale industries the building industry, which is rapidly assuming the character of large-scale industry. On this basis, the corresponding ratios are 49 percent for 1930, 61.5 percent for the 1949 census, and 88 percent as of the end of 1950.

At the 1949 census, the number of industrial workers exceeded the 1930 figure by 80,000 and at the end of 1950 by 170,000. The increase is particularly heavy in the machine and building industries. At the 1949 census, the number of workers in these two categories showed an increase of 120,000 as compared with 1930, while at the end of 1950 this increase was stepped up to 400,000. Transportation workers increased by 90,000 in 1949 as compared with 1930; on the other hand, workers in commerce diminished in number.

Liquidation of Capitalists and Kulaks and Reduction of the Bourgeoisie

The class of capitalists and kulaks comprises farmers owning over 25 cadastral yokes of land, animal breeders, artisans employing help, merchants, independent carriers, persons living on their capital income, and others. Farmers owning less than 25 cadastral yokes of land were also considered kulaks, if the farm included a vineyard, garden, or orchard, which were counted fivefold.

Capitalists and kulaks numbered 960,000 in 1930, or 11 percent of the total population. This figure decreased to 627,000, or 6.9 percent, by 1949. While large estates and kulak holdings numbered 25,000 in 1930, this figure dropped to 4,000 by 1949, and even this smaller figure is composed of kulaks owning a maximum of 200 cadastral yokes of land. The number of kulaks with a maximum of 100 cadastral yokes of land decreased from 286,300 in 1930 to 182,000 in 1949.

Wage earners, with dependents, included in the kulak class numbered 107,000 in 1949, or approximately 50,000 less than in 1930. This number decreased by a further 37,000 as of the end of 1950.

Businessmen, together with their dependents, were estimated at 98,000 on 1 January 1949; this figure decreased by 40,000 during the ensuing 2 years. Artisans employing help numbered 78,000 at the last census and were estimated at 52,000 by the end of 1950.

- 4 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~